


October 15, 2021

FOR YOUR INFORMATION MEMO

To: Mayor and Members of City Council

From: Paula Boggs Muething, City Manager 

Subject: Traffic Calming Efforts in Northside

The Department of Transportation and Engineering (DOTE) has been working with the Northside Community Council Transportation Subcommittee to improve pedestrian safety and calm traffic in Northside since 2017. The Transportation Subcommittee collects community input on areas of concern and works with DOTE to vet and prioritize those concerns for funding and implementation.

Improvements over the years have included: pedestrian triggered flashing lights in front of the McKie Recreation Center, pedestrian triggered flashing lights in the business district on Hamilton Avenue at Lingo, new bump outs at the playground on Chase Avenue at Fergus Street, conversion to zebra crosswalks at Hamilton Avenue and Hoffner Street and at Howland Place and Pitts Avenue, bump outs on Lakeman Street adjacent to Chase Elementary, and a 4-way stop at Dane Street and Knowlton Avenue.

CURRENT EFFORTS

Based on the Northside Community Council's (NCC) FY21 requests, three projects are currently in progress: bump outs for Hamilton Avenue at Palm Street; signal timing adjustments at Hamilton Avenue and Pullan Avenue; and traffic calming for Hamilton Avenue between Pullan Avenue and Spring Lawn Avenue.

Bump outs have been designed for Hamilton Avenue at Palm Street and will be constructed in 2022. A pedestrian countdown signal will be installed at Hamilton Avenue and Pullan Avenue this fall to make it easier for pedestrians to know how much time they have left to cross the street, and signal timing will be adjusted to provide extra time for pedestrians to cross Hamilton Avenue and vehicles to exit Pullan Avenue.

On Monday, October 18, 2021, DOTE staff will be meeting with the NCC to develop consensus on next steps for traffic calming on Hamilton Avenue north of Pullan Avenue. DOTE and the Transportation Subcommittee will recommend the implementation of a pilot project to test 24-hour parking on Hamilton Avenue between Pullan Avenue and Spring Lawn Avenue. When on-street parking is allowed 24-hours a day and heavily used, it creates the visual perception of a narrower driving space and can result in decreased speeding. A similar pilot project was enacted farther south on Hamilton Avenue in 2018 and resulted in a decrease in crashes.

DOTe will recommend that the 24-hour parking pilot extend 2-3 months to test the utilization of the parking and the impact on speeds/crashes. At the end of the pilot, DOTE will work with the Transportation Subcommittee to make a recommendation to the NCC regarding next steps and potential design changes. For example, if the pilot is successful, bump outs could be installed to further enhance the 24-hour parking. If the pilot is not successful, a new 3 lane striping design could be considered. DOTE and the Transportation Subcommittee will share the recommendations with the NCC and ask for a vote on consensus and next steps.

Please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

cc: John Brazina, Director, Department of Transportation & Engineering